WINCHESTER NEWS
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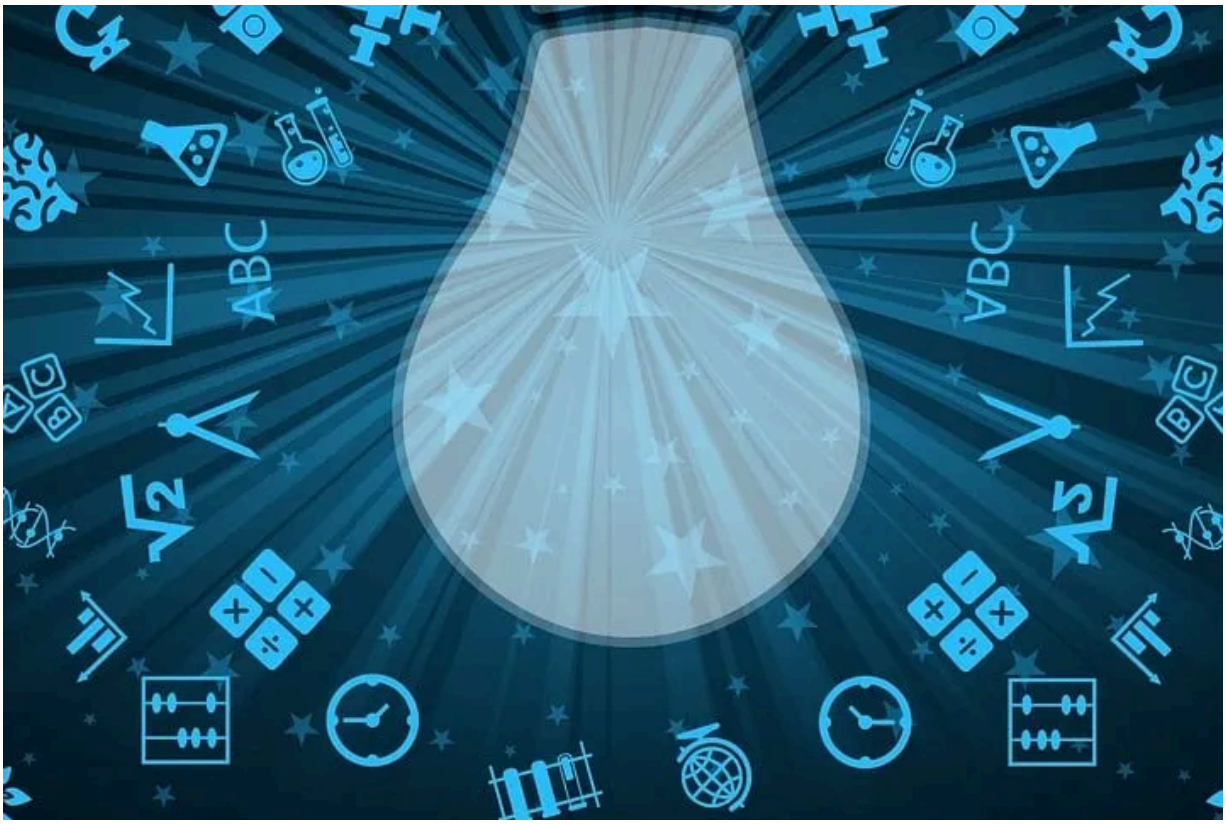
NEWS — DID YOU KNOW

Did You Know? Town Meeting

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

July 20, 2023 . 8:54 PM — 1 min read



An occasional column about town activities by Tara Hughes

July 20, 2023. Did you know that the town of Winchester has a representative town meeting form of government? It can also be to as a limited town meeting. Town meeting is the legislative branch of

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municipal government that enacts laws, passes budgets and authorizes spending. In a representative town meeting, members are elected by voters from election districts or precincts. In an open town meeting all registered voters may attend, speak and vote (no absentee voting allowed). The use of town meeting as a form of government is particularly unique to New England.

In Winchester, we have eight precincts and each precinct has 24 elected members, for a total of 192 town meeting members. Town meeting is held twice yearly, in the spring and fall. The town moderator, elected by the voters, presides over the business and conduct of the meeting. Operating procedures and rules are dictated by statute, charter, by-law and/or vote of town meeting and in the absence of such by Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Practice. The town clerk reports the actions of each session and takes the official minutes.

A warrant is mailed out to all residents containing the warrant articles to be discussed and voted on at town meeting. Only those articles contained in the warrant will be voted on and only elected members may vote. Residents may attend and may be allowed to speak, but they cannot vote on the articles.

To learn more go to: https://www.winchester.us/241/Town-Meeting

And also check out the video about our town meeting at https://imcotek.wistia.com/medias/g29dw1rn8c . Tara Hughes is the president of Winchester News Group and a precinct 1 town meeting member.

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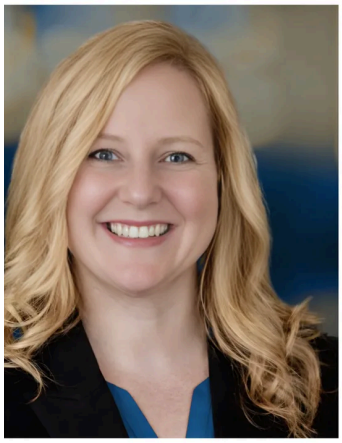

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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